Dear Parents,

This week has been given a special focus in our Diocese—it has been designated by the Bishop as the Week of Marriage and Family. Therefore I would like to share this prayer with you and ask that you spend a moment reflecting upon it.

Prayer for Families

God our loving Father

You have made us in your own image and shared with us your own family life.

Bless our families and guard us from physical and moral danger.

Strengthen the love of husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, daughters and sons.

Grant healing to all families who experience division or rejection, and keep us attentive to their needs.

Fill every home with your peace, joy and love and make our families living witnesses to your presence in the world.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips
Principal
SCHOOL MASSES
There will be a whole school Mass this Friday at 9:10am. All families and friends are welcome.

REC NEWS
This week we celebrate our Friday school Mass with a focus on Catholic Sacramental Marriage. This is the inaugural year of Marriage and Family Week. Bishop Kennedy has instructed that the Diocese of Armidale will place focus on Catholic Sacramental Marriage. Students across all classrooms in Diocesan schools and SRE students in State Schools will undertake lessons designed specifically with this focus for the purpose of developing student understanding of the significance of Catholic Sacramental Marriage. Marriage and Family week concludes with the Feast of Ss Anne and Joachim on Sunday 26th July.
In a few weeks time (on Friday 7.8.15) we look forward to celebrating the solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop as a special part of our school history. More about that closer to the time!
Please continue to pray for our students Zoe Walters and Rumiya McGuiness-Bullock, and students from the Parish community, as they prepare for their First Holy Communion on Sunday 23.8.15.
Yours in peace
Anne Kelly

REC

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Our school photo day will be on Tuesday 4 August. Order envelopes and further information were sent home with each child on Monday. Prices range from $15 to $40 for various packs. Please read the instructions carefully regarding payment and ensure that your child’s envelope is returned to school (even if you are NOT purchasing any photos) by Monday 3 August.

ASSEMBLY
Our usual Friday Assembly was cancelled last Friday due to the large number of students unable to attend school because of the snow. Awards for last week and this week will be presented at this Friday's assembly.

PIANO TEACHER
Piano lessons are available after school each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the St John’s Anglican Church hall. For further information please contact Janette Woodbridge on 6778 7117.

PT&F STREET STALL
Monsignor Ted Wilkes was on hand to draw out the winners of the street stall raffle and $100 Club.
He is pictured here with Nicola Boxsell who was one of the dedicated mums who manned the stall during one of the coldest weeks we’ve had for a long time—2 days of snow and maximum temperatures below 10 celsius!
Supporting your Child in Learning to Read

In Term 3, we are taking a whole school focus to improve reading skills and strategies for our students. By definition, reading is the ability to “to look at carefully so as to understand the meaning of (something written, printed, etc.) All children, regardless of age, like to be read to and innately seek to understanding the meaning of things in life. Learning experiences for the students will target their reading skills and strategies and comprehension strategies to understand the meaning of a variety of texts.

As parents, you are also able to contribute to the learning experiences of your child. To follow are some hints and tips taken directly from the Board of Studies website which offer practical ways in which a love and interest in reading is fostered both at school and in the home environment for your child.

- show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can
- provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, eg stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines, children’s recipe books
- point out words on street signs, packets and labels
- encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations
- reread favourite books
- talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a TV guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book, an encyclopedia
- point out the first sound of a word and encourage your child to think of other words that begin with the same sound
- encourage your child to read books for enjoyment as well as for information
- praise your child when they are reading, eg “well done - that was a difficult word”
- encourage a positive attitude to books
- encourage your child to talk about characters and events in texts
- encourage your child to make sound effects or voices for the characters and events
- ask your child to think of possible beginnings and endings for stories read and heard
- praise your child when they are reading
- “sound out” difficult words and/or give clues to the meaning of difficult words
- encourage your child to have a go at reading words that are unfamiliar
- ask your child to read on past the unknown word to gain clues from the rest of the sentence
- show your child how to find the meanings of unfamiliar words in dictionaries
- encourage your child to watch films and videos of books they have read
- talk about the ways in which a film version of a book compares with the print version
- encourage your child to borrow books from the library.

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

PT&F CORNER

Thank you to everyone for your support of our street stall which was very successful considering the freezing weather. We should raise a net amount of just over $1000. Thank you also to our families who donated the prizes for the raffle: Amanda & David Adams, Jordan & Mark Hannaford, Jo Fletcher and Nicola Boxsell. Winners of the raffle prizes were: 1. Dan Mitchell, 2. Kerry Gallagher, 3. Kerry Gallagher, 4. Bill Stoker, 5. Dawn Toomey, 6. Denise Friedman. $100 Club: Norma Faint. Lollies Guessing: Montana Dodd. Thanks also to Monsignor Wilkes for drawing out the winning tickets.

Next Meeting: Monday 27 July at 5:30pm. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. Agenda will include: Grandparents Day; Athletics Carnival and other matters which help support ALL our children. Come along and join in.

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like to know what is going on, copies of the minutes from our meetings are available in the office at any time.

Kathy Dodd (President) Phone 6778 4774 or Mob. 0423 418 467
GOLD MEDAL FOR DANIEL

Congratulations to Daniel Murrell on taking out a Gold Medal at the NSW PSSA Cross Country championships in Sydney last Friday. Daniel will now qualify to represent NSW at the National Championships in Melbourne next month. What an amazing achievement, Daniel! St Joseph’s is very proud of your effort and determination in reaching this elite level of sport!

As a school community we would like to support Daniel and his family in their fundraising efforts to cover the very expensive costs of travel, uniforms, accommodation and levies.

The NSW PSSA has supplied Daniel with several raffle books which he needs to sell to fund his representative run in Melbourne. **We are selling tickets at the school office on Daniel’s behalf at a cost of $2 each.** We are asking each family to buy as many as they possibly can (aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends included). Please send in your money in an envelope with your names and we will send your tickets home.

- **1st prize:** Laptop Notebook Computer
- **2nd prize:** LED TV (approx. 25”)
- **3rd prize:** iPod Shuffle
- **4th prize:** iPod Shuffle
- **5th prize:** iPod Shuffle

Tickets will be on sale up to 7 August.

MARIAH TAKES OUT UNESAP FIRST PRIZE

Mariah Carlon’s entry in the University of New England Schools Acquisitive Art Prize has taken out First Prize in the Infants Section. This year there were over 707 art entries from around the state and Mariah’s painting was one of 62 finalists to be judged for the ultimate prizes. Mariah’s family and her teacher Mrs Slattery were at the New England Regional Art Museum last Friday evening to witness the presentation of a beautiful art set and certificate to Mariah.

The artworks will be on display in the “Let’s Hang It” exhibition at NERAM until 2nd August. Call in and have a look.

Congratulations, Mariah! St Joseph’s is very proud of you.

**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Mon 20 Jul</td>
<td>PT&amp;F Meeting 5:30pm</td>
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<td>Mon 3 Aug</td>
<td>Board Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Tue 4 Aug</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Thurs 6 Aug</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival (Walcha coming to Uralla)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7 Aug</td>
<td>Grandparents Day &amp; Book Fair NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</td>
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<td>Sun 23 Aug</td>
<td>First Eucharist 8:00am</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER</td>
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<td>Sat 25 Jul</td>
<td>Charlotte Murrell</td>
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<td>Zac Walters</td>
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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